

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants kindly request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings, as well as acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified priority document in the next Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 20-24, and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Musgrave et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,202,151 (hereinafter "Musgrave"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Musgrave is related to a system and method for authentication using biometric certificates. However, Musgrave does not disclose or suggest features of the present invention. For example, claim 1 recites "at least one electronic commerce service provider (ECSP) unit for receiving said transaction request message via said network and transmitting an authentication request message containing said biometrics data and said user identifier to said network"

The Examiner states that the ECSP is shown in col. 4, lines 53-60. More particularly, the Examiner states that the (ECSP) is the same as "entity such as corporation" disclosed in the section of Musgrave. Applicants note that this section of Musgrave refers to a public key held by an individual or an entity such as a corporation. In public key cryptography, a public and private key are created simultaneously using the same algorithm. The private key is given only to the requesting party and the public key is made publicly available. Accordingly, and as shown in

Figure 3, the “entity such as a corporation” cited by the Examiner is not an ECSP, but the user, since that is who has the public key. Accordingly, the grounds of rejection have not shown an ECSP as recited in claim 1.

Further, the Examiner states that the ECSP is also disclosed as receiving said transaction request message . . .” The Examiner cites col. 3, lines 40-48. Applicants submit that this portion of Musgrave refers to the Registration Authority 36. Indeed, in Figure 3, the private key is shown as being used by the Registration Authority 36. However, there is no suggestion, nor would there be that the Registration Authority is an ECSP. Therefore, the Examiner has at least not shown the ECSP features recited in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 10, 20, 22, 26, 28, and 29 also include similar features, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 3 recites a feature where the ECSP includes a conversion table for mapping user identifiers. The Examiner states that this feature is disclosed at col. 5, line 53 through col. 6, line 12 of Musgrave. However, this section of Musgrave refers to the biometric certificate management system BCMS 48. There is no suggestion that BCMS 48 is part of an ECSP. In fact, the Examiner’s rejection on this point contradicts an earlier assertion in the rejection of claim 1. That is, the Examiner indicates in claim 1 that the authentication server is disclosed by the BCMS 48, citing col. 5, lines 36-67. Accordingly, by the Examiner’s earlier assertions, the BCMS 48 cannot be part of the ECSP. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable for its dependency on claim 1, as well as this feature. Claims 12, 21, 24, and 27 are allowable for the same reason, as well as for their respective dependencies.

Claim 4 recites that “each of said end terminals is configured to cipher the biometrics data with a secret key generated by a variable secret key generator which generates secret keys which vary with time , the generated secret key being agreed-upon with said authentication server.” The Examiner states that this feature is taught at col. 5, lines 27-35. Applicants respectfully submit that while a private key of a user is disclosed, there is no suggestion that the key “vary with time.” Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable for this reason as well. Claims 13 and 25 are allowable for the same reason, as well as their for their respective dependencies.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-8, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musgrave in view of Glass et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,332,193 (hereinafter “Glass”). Claims 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Musgrave in further view of Glass. First, these claims are allowable based on their respective dependencies. In addition, claims 11-13 are allowable for the reasons discussed above; the deficiencies of Musgrave not made up for by Glass.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/854,666

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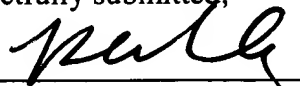
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